



HEALTH IT WORKFORCE GRANT

The HITECH portion of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) provided funds for institutions of higher education to train health care and information technology workers.

The College of Southern Nevada is a member college of a 14 college consortium across Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada. CSN was selected to receive part of this grant and deliver health IT workforce training.

The grant is designed to get people trained quickly in the kind of computerized health information systems that are being installed by hospitals and medical offices across the western states. The electronic systems will replace inefficient paper records and allow health providers to quickly review and update a patient's medical history.

CSN is offering training in the following roles:

Practice workflow and information management redesign specialists

Workers in this role assist in reorganizing the work of a provider to take full advantage of the features of health IT in pursuit of meaningful use of health IT to improve health and care. Individuals in this role may have backgrounds in health care (for example, as a practice administrator) or in information technology, but are not licensed clinical professionals. Workers in this role will:

- Conduct user requirements analysis to facilitate workflow design
- Integrate information technology functions into workflow
- Document health information exchange needs
- Design processes and information flows that accommodate quality improvement and reporting
- Work with provider personnel to implement revised workflows
- Evaluate process workflows to validate or improve practice's systems

Clinician/practitioner consultants

This role is similar to the "redesign specialist" role listed above but brings to bear the background and experience of a licensed clinical and professional or public health professional. In addition to the activities noted above, workers in this role will:

- Suggest solutions for health IT implementation problems in clinical and public health settings
- Address workflow and data collection issues from a clinical perspective, including quality measurement and improvement
- Assist in selection of vendors and software
- Advocate for users' needs, acting as a liaison between users, IT staff, and vendors

Implementation support specialists

Workers in this role provide on-site user support for the period of time before and during implementation of health IT systems in clinical and public health settings. The previous background of workers in this role includes information technology or information management. Workers in this role will:

- Execute implementation project plans, by installing hardware (as needed) and configuring software to meet practice needs
- Incorporate usability principles into design and implementation
- Test the software against performance specifications
- Interact with the vendors as needed to rectify problems that occur during the deployment process

Trainers

Workers in this role design and deliver training programs, using adult learning principles, to employees in clinical and public health settings. The previous background of workers in this role includes experience as a health professional or health information management specialist. Experience as a trainer in the form of an internship is also desired. Workers in this role will:

- Be able to use a range of health IT applications, preferably at an expert level
- Communicate both health and IT concepts as appropriate
- Assess training needs and competencies of learners
- Design lesson plans, structuring active learning experiences for users
- Track training records of the users and develop learning plans for further instruction

CSN is the only college in Nevada participating in this grant and space could become limited.

Interested students should contact Cassie Gentry at cassie.gentry@csn.edu and attach a current resume. The first start date is September 30, 2010.